

Submitter: Amber Cook

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB611

Dear Chair Jama, Vice Chair Anderson and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development,

Greetings to the Committee,

We do not have/elect/pay government to stand by while small segments of the population destroy the homes and lives of others for unnecessary personal gain.

Rents should never outstrip wages in an area, and if the landlords in an area decide to drive out the people living and working in that area in the hopes of satisfying heightened greed to make even more unearned/passive/investment income, it is everyone's job to stop them. Especially. our elected and paid political representatives.

Landlords will whine piteously and say if you make us charge reasonable rents, we can't make it and will stop being landlords and then where will you be.

But of course there never has been a shortage of landlords. There never will be a shortage of landlords. In MN where many laws were enacted by local government to protect all renters in the state from predatory landlords by capping rents and keeping out of state investors from running slum housing, there are no shortage of landlords. The greedy ones may have pulled out of MN, leaving reasonable landlords to take over housing properties and run decent housing for a decent profit.

The same is happening in Pasadena CA right now, where even more reasonable restrictions have been placed on landlords!

The same will happen here! Reasonable rent caps will weed out greedy slumlords and allow healthy tenant/landlord relations to thrive in Oregon, Allowing Oregonian renters to continue to rent decent homes and make decent lives here. Draining the streets of homeless and removing heavy burdens of government assistance.

When landlords jack up rent prices beyond the area wages, the costs of housing and providing for low income people are "outsourced" onto the government and taxpayers for shelters, SNAPs, treatment & recovery, etc., etc., etc.. That is not fair. It's not right. It harms EVERYONE except those greedy few. And our elected representatives should be the FIRST people standing up to say NO to it.

SB 611 is a reasonable approach. Allowable annual rent increases for current tenants will be more predictable for current tenants and more homes will be protected. And between tenants, landlords can charge whatever the market will bear for vacant units.

SB 611 does not solve all the inequities in our housing market, but it is an important step to more fairness and is an essential element in the legislature's response to the state's housing and homelessness crisis.

Vote yes on SB 611 to prevent more high-rent homelessness in our communities and to stop landlords from outsourcing their greed profiteering into vastly increased needs for social services, the cost of which is forced onto everyone in Oregon.

Sincerely,
Amber Cook